

Amendments to the Drawings

Revisions have been made in Figs. 1 and 2 in the drawings in full response to the Examiner's comments about these two figures. In this context, one page in the accompanying 2-page Appendix is a Replacement Sheet of Drawings which should now replace the Replaced Sheet of Drawings which forms the second page in the 2-page Appendix.

The revisions hereby made in Fig. 2 of the drawings have necessitated the amendment which is made on page 6 in the Specification.

Remarks/Arguments

This Amendment has been prepared and filed in response to the Office Action dated April 13, 2005, according to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office procedures for amending applications in effect at the time of the Office Action, and to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated June 12, 2006. This paper, accordingly, is to be considered a substitute for the Amendment filed on April 26, 2006. For reasons relating to various events and mis-communications regarding the mailing of the Action of April 13, 2005, applicant did not, until shortly after March 3, 2006, actually receive a copy of the April 13, 2005 Action, as a consequence of which, the above-identified invention technically became unintentionally abandoned.

Accordingly, sent along with the Amendment of April 13, 2005 was an appropriate Petition to Revive under 37 CFR § 1.137(b) for Unintentional Abandonment, accompanied by the required Petition fee.

In the April 13, 2005 Action, the Examiner objected to each of the Information Disclosure Statements filed in this application, objected to certain aspects of the drawings, objected to the specification in relation to a minor typographical error appearing on page 7, and objected to claim 1 regarding another minor typographical error in that claim. Additionally, the Examiner objected to each of the three claims with respect to certain phraseology presented in those claims.

On substantive grounds, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 683,443 to Cooley.

Finally, the Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the technical objections relating to them.

In the non-compliance Notice of June 12, 2006, the Examiner (a) noted a mistaken use (an inadvertent error) of the words “Annotated Sheet” regarding drawings sent with the April 26, 2006 Amendment, (b) noted the need for a reformatting of proposed changes in the specification, and (c) observed the need for payment of a fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(p) to be associated with submission of a new Information Disclosure Statement. All of these issues are now dealt with by the present substitute Amendment document.

With entry of the present substitute Amendment, and for the reasons set forth below, this application, with all of its claims, has been placed by applicant in a clear condition for allowance of all three claims presented in the application. All technical objections, including those directed to the drawings, have been addressed, and currently amended claim 1 has been modified modestly to make what it claims more clearly distinguishable relative to the single cited and applied prior art reference. More applicant will say about this shortly.

Regarding the previously-filed Information Disclosure Statement, attached to that Statement’s identification of prior art references are concise explanations of the respective relevances of French document No. 2 471 461, of German document No. 295 18 886, and of French document No. 2 613 403. The requisite fee for filing that IDS accompanies this Paper.

Turning attention now to currently amended claim 1, this claim now recites that the generally planar tabs of the recited body of applicant’s interface connector each has the characteristics of an elastically deflectable cantilever element. No such structure is shown or

suggested by the Cooley reference. Accordingly, claim 1 is now clearly patentable along with claims 2 and 3 which have been currently amended to address the Examiner's technical objections to these claims.

On a final point, certain documents present in the file of this case in the communications going back and forth with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office indicate that a very minor typographical error may exist in the title of this invention. Specifically, the word "Section" in the title should begin with a capital "S". It appears that certain communications may have a lower case "s" in certain references to the title, and this lower case/upper case error should be corrected. Accordingly, please take appropriate steps to assure that the patent which will issue from this application has this particular title word properly presented.

Thus, with entry of this Amendment, all claims in this application are clearly in conditions for immediate formal allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact Attorney-of-Record Jon M. Dickinson, Esq., at 503-504-2271.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any

additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

Customer Number

Respectfully Submitted,

56703

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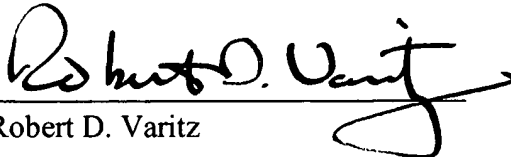
Portland, Oregon 97202

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I hereby certify that the attached Substitute Response to Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and a PTO Form 2038 Credit Card authorization in the amount of \$180.00 to pay for a previously submitted IDS are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 22313-1450


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